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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/022,834 | 02/13/1998 | STEFAN DEGENDT | 98.162 | 6138 |

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CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

AHMED, SHAMIM

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1765

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER |
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20050712

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Commissioner for Patents

The reply brief filed 4/01/04 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Applicant's request for an oral hearing is acknowledged and examiner does not intend to present in the oral hearing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shamim Ahmed whose telephone number is (571) 272-1457. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu (7:00-5:30) Every Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine G. Norton can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shamim Ahmed
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1765